

Host Nation Relations Education Pilot Program in DoDDS Schools

Goal

To establish a pilot program to determine the long-term feasibility for inter-cultural/host nation educational exchange.

Program to include:

- German Student Teachers in DoDDS schools**
- Guest lectures by DoDDS staff at German teacher colleges**
- Access for DoDDS staff to professional development seminars and conferences at German universities**

Advantages

- **-Teachers benefit from inter-cultural exchange with host nation university students and professional staff.**
- **-Students benefit from exposure to host nation student teachers.**
- **-Transfer of US education methodology to the next generation of German teachers.**
- **-Enhanced host nation relations.**
- **-Residential exchange student program offers advantages of foreign residence without force protection risks.**
- **-Minimal cost to DoDDS or US Government (administrative time)**

Program Outline

German Student Teacher Component

- 6-8 week Student Teacher practicum with students from the University of Landau (Pfalz)
- Student teachers receive credit through German University Program for the practicum as well as for 6-8 weeks of foreign residence (12 weeks required by Kultus Ministerium for foreign language students)
- Student teachers evaluated by university staff but DoDDS evaluation welcomed.
- Installation access granted by local commander based upon local background checks (Polizeiliche Führungszeugnisse)
- Workman's Compensation Insurance provided by German Government for travel to and from schools as well as while on installation.

- School principals assist in placement of Student Teachers with volunteer master teachers, and retain the authority to terminate participation by any student whose character, professional performance, or student interaction negatively impacts on students or staff.

- Schools Liaison Officer manages pilot program and acts as liaison with German university. SLO coordinates matching master teachers with student teachers in cooperation with school principals. SLO initiates and obtains installation access.

- No logistical support required.

Guest Lecture Component

- DoDDS staff invited to present lectures and workshops on relevant topics at German universities.

- German University staff to present guest lectures to DoDDS professional development groups.

- Pilot program coordinated by Schools Liaison Officer

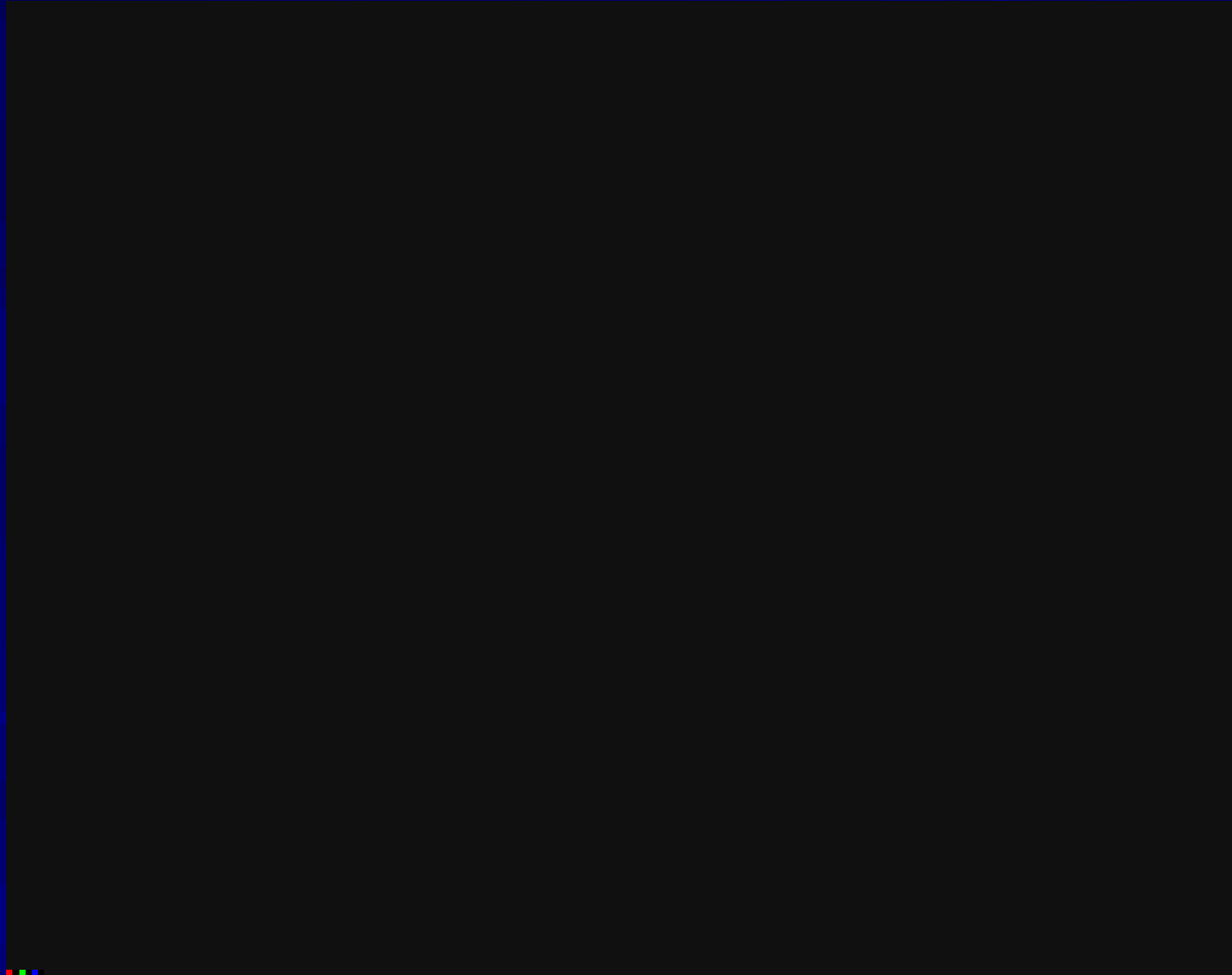
Residential Exchange Student Component

- German students at high school/middle school level reside with US military/DoD Civilian families with same age/grade student, and attend DoDDS school for one semester.
- US Military/DoD Civilian student at high school/middle school level resides with German host family, and attends German school for one semester.
- Exchange proximity within one hour commuting time of US military facility to ensure maximum force protection recall possibility.
- Pilot Program coordinated by Schools Liaison Officer . No additional administrative requirements on the part of the host school.

Components already in place

- 3 Host Nation Praktikanten paired with master teachers in PHES, MTES, and HHS for September 2004. Significant German media attention was shown, and a representative of the Heidelberg City Council attended a closing awards ceremony.
- 20 Host Nation Praktikant(in)en participating in the Spring Semester session in Heidelberg and Kaiserslautern School Districts.
- Additional Praktikanten signed up for Fall 2005 and Spring 2006.
- Heidelberg DSO Chief of Staff, Dr. Terry Emerson delivered a 45 minute lecture entitled "American Education In Europe" to an audience of 90 German University students at the University of Landau on 27th May 2004. MTES Media Center teacher to deliver workshop on use of computers to facilitate project based learning at University of Landau in October 2004.
- An invitation was issued for Heidelberg DoDDS staff to attend the "International Conference on Linguistics" at the University of Landau in May 2004.

AFN TV



German Perspective

- The Ministry of Culture, Department of Education has expressed enthusiasm for the proposal as offering significant advantages to German students, and providing a balanced inter-cultural perspective.
- The Host Nation Praktikanten component addresses a need to develop the ability of German teachers to deliver content area instruction in one of the major EU languages (English).
- The Host Nation Praktikanten component addresses the issue of language students who do not have financial means or are unable due family considerations to travel abroad to satisfy the requirement for 12 weeks of foreign residence.
- The University of Landau has expressed enthusiasm for the Host Nation Praktikanten component as it enhances their ability to find “student teaching” opportunities for their students.

- The Host Nation Praktikanten component enhances German participants' attractiveness in the job market.
- Local secondary school directors express enthusiasm for the exchange student component as an opportunity for their students to practice their English in a native speaking academic environment. This is viewed as a major advantage for students wishing to do under-graduate or graduate level work in US or British universities.

DoDDS Teacher Perspective

- 2 out of 3 participants in the initial session continued to work as volunteers in the school after the end of their practicum.
- Having an extra person in the room who knows the students makes having a substitute teacher less of a problem.
- Having to explain why we do things a certain way reinforced professional knowledge and self-assessment.